

Remarks

Claims 1-44 are pending upon entry of the foregoing amendment.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 45-47 have been canceled without prejudice as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 18-20 have been amended to specify that the method can be used to a multicontinuous *or bicontinuous* structure. Claims 43-44 have been amended to specify that the claims are directed to a method for making a shrunken replica of a *bicontinuous* structure. Support is found throughout the specification and figures, including original claims 23-42.

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action divided claims 1-47 into two groups: Group I, claims 1-44, drawn to a method for producing shrunken replica/inverse replica of multicontinuous or bicontinuous structures; and Group II, claims 45-47, drawn to replicas of multicontinuous or bicontinuous structures. Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute Group I, claims 1-44. Applicants traverse because search and examination of Groups I and II together in a single application would not present an undue burden.

Species Election Requirement

The Office Action indicates that the claims of Group I include two categories of patentably distinct species and requires Applicants to elect one "species" from each:

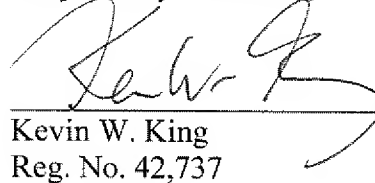
- A. multicontinuous and bicontinuous networks.
- B. metal and nonmetals

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AMENDMENT & RESPONSE
TO OFFICE ACTION

Applicants elect, with traverse, bicontinuous networks in Category A and nonmetals in Category B. Claims 1-12, 15-32, and 35-44 read on the elected species. Claim 1 as amended is generic to both Category A and Category B. Applicants traverse on the grounds that search and examination of all of the species would not present an undue burden.

Examination and allowance of claims 1-44 is earnestly solicited. The undersigned kindly invites the Examiner to contact him by telephone (404.853.8068) if any outstanding issues can be resolved by conference or examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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